

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

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- 1. Comprehensive Plan – Request to Adopt**
  - 2. Water and Sewer Tap Fees – Request to Amend City Code**
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Emporia's City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, located at 201 South Main Street, Emporia, Virginia. Mayor Mary L. Person presided over the session.

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilman James E. Ewing, III  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple  
Councilwoman Carol Mercer  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor  
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager  
Dr. Edwin C. Daley, Projects Administrator  
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk  
Ricky Pinksaw, Chief of Police

Absent:

### **1. Comprehensive Plan - Request to Adopt**

Mr. Thrower stated that the Planning Commission recommended the adoption of the updated Comprehensive Plan at its December 9, 2014 meeting.

He recommended that Council adopt the updated Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Person asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak regarding this matter.

With there being no comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person declared the first public hearing closed and proceeded to the second public hearing.

### **2. Water and Sewer Tap Fees – Request to Amend City Code**

Mr. Thrower stated that at the November 18, 2014 meeting that Council, directed staff to develop options regarding amendments to the water and sewer tap fee payment process. He also stated that those options were brought to Council at the December 16, 2014 meeting. He further stated that at that meeting, Council authorized conducting a public hearing regarding possible

amendments to City Code. He further stated that the City Code currently required the payment of water and sewer tap fees at the time of building permit issuance. He stated that Option 1 amendment to the City code only included this change to Section 78-72 and 78-188, which would require tap charges to be paid prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

Mr. Thrower stated at the December 16, 2014 meeting Council also authorized a public hearing pertaining to water and sewer tap fees, per the request of Council Member Carey. He also stated that the following amendment was discussed regarding to the City Code Section 78-72 and 78-188, which would equalize water and sewer taps fee charges for “lodging facilities” and “two-family and multiple-family dwellings.” He further stated that under this option, water tap charge for the aforementioned developments would be \$5,000.00. He stated that sewer tap charges would be \$8,000.00. He reported that Option 2 was an ordinance amending the City Code requiring payment of tap fees prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and equalizing charges for both types of development.

Mr. Thrower stated that Option 3 was an ordinance amending City Code requiring payment of tap fees prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and increasing the per unit sewer tap charge for “two-family and multiple-family dwellings” from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00. He also stated that the \$2,000.00 per dwelling unit sewer tap charge has been in existence for several years. He further stated that this \$2,000.00 charge should have been reflected in the code amendments Council adopted at the November 18, 2014 meeting. He stated that in reviewing the fees charged by other localities, it appeared Emporia has a comparable fee structure. He also stated for an example, the City of Colonial Heights charges a \$4,000.00 per apartment unit water tap fee, and a \$6,000.00 per apartment unit sewer tap fee. He also stated that from a comparison standpoint, the total cost of building 10 apartment units in Emporia equals \$37,000.00, while the total cost of building 10 apartment units in Colonial Height equals \$100,000.00.

He recommended Council to adopt Option 3, which requires tap charges to be paid prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and to increase the two-family and multiple-family per dwelling unit sewer tap fee to \$2,000.00.

Mayor Person asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak regarding this matter.

With there being no comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person declared the second public hearing closed.

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Mary L. Person, Mayor

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Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk



**MINUTES**  
**EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**January 6, 2015**

*Note to Reader: Although the printed agenda document for this City Council meeting is not part of these minutes, the agenda document provides background information on the items discussed by City Council during the meeting. A copy of the agenda document for this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk.*

Emporia City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, located at 201 South Main Street, Emporia, Virginia. Mayor Mary L. Person presided over the meeting with Carolyn Carey, Council Member offering the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilman James E. Ewing, III  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple  
Councilwoman Carol Mercer  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor  
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager  
Dr. Edwin C. Daley, Projects Administrator  
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk  
Ricky Pinksaw, Chief of Police

Absent:

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, December 16, 2014, Regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Carey, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey            aye

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

Mayor Person introduced the new Police Chief Ricky Pinksaw.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***15-01. Comprehensive Plan – Request to Adopt***

Mr. Sam Tuttle, of Community Planning Partners, reported the background highlights to the Comprehensive plan as following:

- Vacant land in city reduced from 53% in 2007 to 44% today.
- Population is projected to grow to 7,622 by 2040 (17.4 % increase). Previous projections showed Emporia losing population over this time period.

Mr. Tuttle reported the changes to Goals & Objectives as the following to Community Facilities, Transportation, Housing and Economic Development:

- Upgrade building facilities, particularly the Municipal Building and Police Department.
- Renovation of the vacant elementary auditorium on South Main Street for community uses
- Explore the demand for an economic feasibility of creating a City-wide or regional public transportation system.
- Greater focus on owner-occupied housing
- Create a downtown business association to coordinate with the Emporia-Greenville Chamber of Commerce, implement the principles of the Main Street Four-Point Approach and seek designation as a Virginia Main Street community through the Virginia Main Street Association.

Councilman Ewing made a motion to adopt the Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye

Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

***15-02. Water and Sewer Tap Fees – Request to Amend City***

Mr. Thrower stated that this item was the subject of the public hearing previously held.

Councilwoman Carey suggested Option 2 ordinance amending the City Code requiring payment of tap fees prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and equalizing charges for both types of development.

Councilwoman Carey made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 15-01** amending the City Code Sections 78-72 and 78-188 as it applied to the water and sewer taps fees, seconded by Councilwoman White which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	nay
Councilman James E. Ewing	nay
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

***15-03. Fire Program Funds – Appropriation Ordinance***

Mr. Thrower reported that the City had received \$18,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. He stated that in order for the Emporia Volunteer Fire Department to utilize the grant funds, Council would need to appropriate the sum of \$18,000.00 into the FY15 operating budget.

Councilman Harris made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 15-02** to appropriate the sum of \$18,000.00 in Grant Funds from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

***15-04. Boards and Commissions – Unexpired Term (Don Wyatt)***

Mr. Thrower stated that as the result of Don Wyatt’s retirement, his seat on the Highway Safety Commission remains vacant. He also stated that the vacant seat on the Highway Safety Commission is classified as “Ex Officio” with no term expiration date.

Mr. Thrower stated that as the result of Don Wyatt's retirement his seat on the Southside Regional Jail Authority Board remains vacant. He also stated that the vacant seat on the Southside Regional Jail Authority Board serves a four-year term with a current expiration date of June 30, 2018.

Mr. Thrower stated that as a result of Don Wyatt's retirement his seat on the Southside Community Criminal Justice Board remains vacant. He also stated that the vacant seat on the Southside Community Criminal Justice Board is classified as having a full commission with no term expiration date.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to appoint Ricky Pinksaw, Chief of Police to fill the unexpired terms of Don Wyatt on the Highway Safety Commission, Southside Regional Jail Authority Board and Southside Community Criminal Justice Board, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

#### ***15-05. President of Council Election***

Mr. Thrower stated that per the City Charter, Council would need to elect a President of Council at tonight's meeting.

Councilman Harris moved to nominate Councilwoman Carey to serve as President of Council.

Councilman Harris moved to reappoint Councilwoman Carey to serve as President of Council, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	abstained

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Person asked if anyone wished to bring a matter before City Council members adhering to the three-minute time limitation.

*Ms. Marva Dunn, 272 Astrio Street*, addressed Council stating that the City might want to consider bringing in more recreation facilities and bus transportation to the area since the Comprehensive Plan shows an increase in population to the area.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before City Council, Mayor Person adjourned the meeting.

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Mary L. Person, Mayor

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Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk